

REMARKS

Claims 15-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15-19 are amended. Independent claim 15 is amended to further clarify a distinguishing feature and to correct an informality. Claims 16-19 are amended to maintain consistency with independent claim 15. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 11, lines 18-22; at page 12, line 32 through page 13, line 7; and in Figs. 2-4 and 7-10. No new matter is added.

The Office Action objects to independent claim 15 for an informality. Claim 15 is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Office Action: (1) rejects claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sunao (JP-A-06-308576); (2) rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sunao in view of Shosuke (JP-A-07-098481); and (3) rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sunao in view of Ishiguro (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,284). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Sunao fails to disclose or render obvious the combination of features recited by independent claim 15. In particular, Sunao fails to disclose that all of the shutter blades are disposed between the lens-side frame and the image pick-up unit-side frame, the portion of the image pick-up unit that opposes the shutter unit is located between all of the shutter blades and the photoelectric converter, and protruding into the second opening part of the image pick-up unit-side frame. Sunao discloses a camera system in which the camera back can be changed from a back that employs standard film to a still video back that employs electric sensor 30 to capture images. When the still video back 15 with electric sensor 30 is attached to single-lens reflex camera 1, the shutter unit 2 is locked in an open position to accommodate the image pick-up unit consisting of sensor 30, holder 19, and filter group 18. See paragraphs [0015]-[0017] of the translation of Sunao. In particular, as is clear in Fig. 8 of Sunao, the filter group 18 and holder 19 of the image pick-up unit protrude into the shutter

unit 2. As disclosed by Sunao, if the shutters 2a of shutter unit 2 were closed, the camera assembly would be unable to close. This can be further seen in Fig. 11 of Sunao, where the interference member 15 blocks interference pawl 39 when the shutter 2 is in the closed position. Sunao explicitly discloses a system in which filter group 18 protrudes into the shutter plane, partially passing beyond the shutters 2a. Therefore, Sunao does not disclose a camera where the image pick-up unit (filter 18, holder 19, etc.) that opposes the shutter unit, is located between all of the shutter blades and the photoelectric converter, as recited by independent claim 15. Therefore, independent claim 15 is patentable over Sunao.

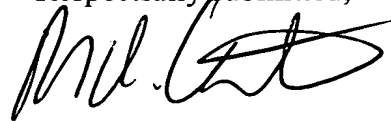
Moreover, because Sunao explicitly discloses that the shutter must be open to allow the camera to assemble, and the filter group 18 protrudes through the shutter plane 2, one of ordinary skill would not have been able to modify Sunao to achieve the claimed features.

Shosuke and Ishiguro individually or in combination with Sunao fail to disclose or render obvious the combination of features recited by independent claim 15. Thus, independent claim 15, and its dependent claims (claims 16-22) are patentable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:MEM/hs

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 8, 2008

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